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The CIA's Coming? What Else Is New?

By JANE SHUFER

What do Reston residents think of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency moving some of its operations to Reston?

According to an unscientific study done by The Connection, most residents don't think about it at all.

As reported last week, the CIA will be moving into the Reston Corporate Center on Sunset Hills Road. The CIA wouldn't comment on the move and said it doesn't reveal the location of any of its offices other than its headquarters in Langley.

A sampling of Reston residents taken at Hunters Woods Village Center this week revealed a general feeling that the new neighbor can't hurt and might be useful.

• "At first I was surprized," Alice Coles said. "I wasn't scared—no Big Brother moving in or anything like that."

• "The CIA moving into Reston? Shoot, as long as they bring jobs I'm all for it!" said Robbie Dunbar.

• "I have no problem with it," said Laura Snyder. "It should create a lot of jobs for people in the area."

• "They're building so much office space they have to have someone to move into it," Nettie Loecher said.

Observed Janet Howell, president of Reston Community Association: "It just seems to be a continuation of a trend."

Since the agency has not officially announced the move, "I am not aware that they are coming to Reston," said Hunter Richardson, vice president of commercial marketing at Reston Land Corp.

About 3,000 employees are expected, leading area restaurateurs such as Michele Polizzi of Il Cigno to look forward to the move. "It's very positive," he said.

However, Linda Singer, chairman of the Reston Transportation Committee, was concerned about the possibility of more cars on the road. "That shows again the tremendous need for the Springfield Bypass to at least come to Reston Avenue to relieve all that traffic," she said.

Observed another Reston resident: "It's a free country. They can move anywhere they want to as long as they can pay their rent, can't they?"